

# Sundarbans comes to Nat'l Museum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To a person, who has not made a trip to the Sundarbans, the first floor of the city's National Museum can be an ideal place to glimpse the biodiversity of the world's largest mangrove forest.

Inside a newly constructed diorama, one can see the monkeys of the forest clinging with the Sundari trees, the deer are loitering beneath, birds perched on the tree branches and a tiger inside the deep jungle gazing.

Also, the bird's chirping and animal sounds synchronised with other acoustic effects will make you feel, for at least a moment, you are somewhere around the mangrove forest.

The Gallery No-3 of the National Museum arranged so in the diorama titled 'The Sundarbans', was launched yesterday.

"Wonderful!" uttered Mina Rahman, a visitor of the city, while expressing her feelings. "We have always heard about the Sundarbans from people and watched the forest on television, but never got a chance to visit. This 'mini Sundarbans' can be a great entertaining place for the kids."

For the first time ever, the National Museum authorities launched such type of glass showcase, which represents a panorama of the Sundarbans, with the aim to increase public awareness for environmental protection and promote public opinion for conservation of the forest.

The authorities organised a launching ceremony followed by a prize giving ceremony of a children's art competition, which marked the death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Inside the gallery, there is an array of trees beside rivers and canals with the diverse wildlife -- tigers, deer, monitor lizards, crabs, monkeys, vultures, woodpeckers and birds of different species in the background of a jungle.



PHOTO: STAR

A kid beholds the beauty of "The Sundarbans", a newly built diorama on the first floor of the city's National Museum. The world's largest mangrove forest has been enclosed in a miniature figure inside the glass showcase inaugurated yesterday.

The organisers said the gallery would help satisfy people, who cannot afford to go to the Sundarbans, with the natural beauty and biodiversity of the forest.

Information and Cultural Affairs Minister

Abul Kalam Azad inaugurated the gallery and lauded the initiative that the kids can have a primary idea, at least in small form, of the forest through the gallery, and it would raise their interests in the Sundarbans.

Prof Dr Shahdat Ali, president of diorama expert committee; Prakash Chandra Das, director general of the museum; and M Azizur Rahman, president of Museum Trustee Board; also spoke.

# Energy act to protect corrupt persons

Says BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition BNP yesterday demanded cancellation of Power and Energy Fast Supply Enhancement (Special Provision) Act, 2010, passed by the parliament on Sunday.

"Such law is against the constitution. The government made this law only to protect corrupt persons and it will be used only to loot public money," said BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain.

The new law will provide the government with sweeping authority to quickly award energy sector contracts on unsolicited negotiation basis.

The government will have the authority to take and implement any projects for quick generation, distribution and marketing of power and gas for next two years.

Briefing at BNP's central office in Nayapalton, Delwar demanded withdrawal of the law immediately, as people will not allow the government to forgive corruption.

"Consequence of giving legitimacy to a wrongdoing will not be good. The law will destroy the culture of accountability."

He said the government is going to permit huge corruption by giving permission to set up power stations without due tender process, but BNP will not give legitimacy to such move.

In a reply, Delwar said reprint of constitution without the consent of parliament goes against the constitution. "Only the parliament has the jurisdiction to take any initiative regarding the constitution. Justice can give an interpretation of the constitution, but it will be a part of the constitution through the parliament".

Party leaders Aman Ullah Aman, Ruhul Kabir Rizvi and Habib un Nabi Sohel, were present among others.

# 2 arrested with bombs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police on Tuesday arrested two persons and seized 25 Molotov cocktails and three machetes from them who allegedly tried to create chaos near an under-construction building in the city's Senpara.

Rubel, 23, and Masum Billah, 20, with two others of a gang made the attempt, as the owner of the building has been refusing to pay their extortion demand for long since, said Sub-Inspector Sheikh Matiar Rahman of Kafur Police Station.

Meanwhile, police arrested a person, identified as Md Kabir, 19, with a revolver in Pallabi in the city.

# PILKHANA MUTINY TRIAL CONTINUES

## Accused quiz 2 witnesses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As a BDR special court continued trial proceedings at the Darbar Hall of Pilkhana, 49 border guards, accused of mutiny, yesterday cross-examined two witnesses -- Lt Col Asif Abdur Rouf and Sepoy Farid Afrad.

The court allowed the accused to quiz the witnesses about the particular allegation against them. After the quizzing, the accused claimed themselves innocent while the witnesses claimed that what they said was true.

Sepoy Farid gave his deposition before the Special Court-11 holding trial of 667 suspected mutineers of 24 Rifle Battalion of Pilkhana.

The witness blamed the accused of consulting them near the No 1 Sainik Line of the battalion after the disorder broke out at Darbar Hall on February 25 last year.

He also blamed some accused riding on a pick-up van were giving provocative speech like 'the army entered Pilkhana through gate no 5 and killing BDR jawans, so all go to armoury, take firearms and launch an attack on the army'.

The witness screened video footage and photograph of some accused during his deposition.

After his deliberation, the accused started cross-examining the witness with the first being Gofran Mallick, the prime accused of the case.

When it was the turn of accused Sepoy Rahim, the court asked prosecutor of the case Lt Col Shamsur Rahman to screen the video footage again where Rahim was found standing behind the home minister wearing helmet and bullet proof vest during the surrender of arms.

The court asked whether the photograph shown in the footage is him, Rahim replied in the negative.

Minutes later when Rahim requested the court to ask witness Farid to say exactly from when he knows him (Rahim), the court said, "You denied your own photo, I did not compel you to tell it is yours. I cannot compel him."

Earlier in the day, 24 cross-examined another witness Lt Col Asif Ahmed Rouf who gave his deposition on Tuesday.

The proceedings of the court headed by BDR Director General Maj Gen Md Rafiqul Islam were adjourned till 9:30am today.

All the 667 accused in the mutiny case were produced before the court.

A total of 74 people, including 57 army officers deputed to the border force, were killed during the February 25-26 carnage.

# German radio starts airing Bangla programmes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A German radio station, Deutsche Welle (DW), officially launched its programmes in Bangla using the FM frequencies of the state-run radio station Bangladesh Betar yesterday.

Listeners in six divisional cities -- Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet, Khulna, Rajshahi and Rangpur -- can reach DW programmes from 8:00am to 8:30am, and 8:00pm to 8:30pm daily.

DW officials said the programmes will be broadcast on 97.6 MHz FM in Dhaka; 105.4 MHz in Chittagong and Rangpur; and 105.0 MHz in Khulna and Rajshahi.

The radio broadcasts include international and regional news, current affairs, in-depth reports and ten minutes radio magazines on youths, campus, health, women, culture, music, science, sports, environment and lifestyle.

Graham Lucas, head of DW's South Asian Desk, said the youth population in Bangladesh is growing quickly, and they demand a fast, up-to-date and reliable source of news and information.

DW will also run a contest, not known yet, for its users and listeners from next Monday, offering a motorised scooter for the champion and an iPod Nano for the runners-up.

Participants can respond via Short Message Service (SMS) at 2777, or visit website: www.dw-world.de/bengali.

DW started test transmission in Bangladesh in April this year.

A K M Shameem Chowdhury, Bangladesh Betar director general; Tobias Grote Bevenborg, representative of distribution and sell of DW; and Debrati Guha, coordinating editor of DW's South Asia Desk; were present at the launching ceremony held at a city hotel.

# 4500 union info service centres to open in Nov

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate 4500 Union Information Service Centres (UISCs) in one go in all unions through video conference in November this year.

Disclosing this at a training workshop yesterday Adviser to the prime minister H T Imam underscored the need for best use of information technology to ensure government services to the doorstep of the people.

National Project Director of Access to Information (A2I) Md Nazrul Islam Khan, who chaired the function, told about the different aspects relating to the inauguration of the UISCs by the prime minister.

Access to Information (A2I) programme of PMO funded by UNDP organised the function for 50 Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNO) at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). The workshop was organised to provide knowledge and training to the UNOs about the UISCs and district e-service centres so that they can

expedite the government's on going digital Bangladesh activities and take the government services to the doorsteps of the people by using Information, Communication and Technology (ICT).

Several case studies including online Hajj, automation of Chittagong Customs House, automation of Bangladesh Bank and National Data Bank Project and government e-health service were presented at the workshop.

Imam stressed the need for providing training to the doctors and the educated unemployed people about information technology and said there is no alternative to use information technology to reach government services to the people.

Urging the UNOs to come up with a mind to provide service to the people, he said enforcement of law is not enough to serve the people.

# ARREST WARRANT AGAINST PABAN

## Police fail to submit report to court for third time

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday for the third time directed Bangshal and Chakhill Police Stations to submit reports on execution of the arrest warrants to it by October 13 against Khandaker Abdul Hamid Paban and Omar Faruk in connection with a cracker explosion case.

The court yesterday did not entertain a petition submitted by Paban's lawyers seeking time to surrender their client before it.

The court on July 5 issued arrest warrants against Paban, son of BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain, and Faruk, former Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) president of Chakhill thana as they have been absconding.

Judge Mohammad Zohurul Hoque of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order as Bangshal and Chakhill police failed to submit reports by yesterday on execution of arrest warrants against the two accused.

In the yesterday's petition, Paban's lawyers said their client had earlier surrendered before the High Court (HC) for bail. After the hearing, the HC directed Paban to appear before the trial court within six weeks.

Paban was earlier admitted to a clinic while he was addicted with drug in the city's Gulshan area. He was yet to recover from illness. So, they prayed for granting time for surrender, lawyers said.

The case was filed with Gulshan Police Station against Paban and five others on charge of exploding crackers in front of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office on February 23 this year.

Four other accused -- Golam Sabbir alias Shovon, Syed Hasan Rony and Pradip Saha, secretary of Sonaimuri upazila JCD and Dakat Babu -- were arrested on different dates.



PHOTO: STAR

Oparajeyo Bangladesh, a non-government organisation, stages a demonstration on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue at Karwan Bazar in the city yesterday demanding steps to stop stalking and assault on children.

# PASSAGE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BILL

## Social bodies hail government

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different social organisations yesterday hailed the government for passing the "The Domestic Violence (Protection and Preservation) Bill 2010."

Passed on October 5 in the national parliament, the bill kept strong provisions to protect women and children from family violence and repression.

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), in a press release yesterday, hailed the move of the government.

MJF thinks the law will create a way to attain justice for women who are under repression and also provide a way of getting children's protection and justice.

Executive Director of MJF Shaheen Anam considered the move as a historic event of the country.

She assured of all out support from MJF to the government.

Voice against Domestic Violence, a citizen's initiative against domestic violence, praised the government for passing the bill.

The women of the country will get justice through this law, said a press release of the organisation.

Hailing the government, Salma Ali, executive director of Bangladesh Jatiya Mahila Ainjibi Samity, said it is a great achievement for the women of the country and a successful attempt of both the government and private initiatives.

Citizens' Initiative on CEDAW, Bangladesh, Steps Towards Development, Gender and Development Alliance also hailed the government for the bill.

# LOSS OF TK 9.75CR

## ACC presses charges against ex-KCC mayor

A CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has pressed charges in a case filed against former Khulna City Corporation (KCC) Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman for causing a loss of Tk 9.75 crore to the government.

Assistant Director of ACC Aminur Rahman submitted the charge sheet with the court of Khulna Metropolitan Chief Judicial Magistrate Md Berekuzzaman yesterday.

The charge sheet said Tayebur Rahman appointed more labourers on muster roll misusing his authority as mayor of KCC for his own benefit causing a loss of Tk 9.75 crore to the government during July 2002 to October 2007. According to clause 46 of the City Corporation Act, 1984, 199 people can be appointed as labourers on muster roll.

Tayebur Rahman is on bail in this case.

On December 30 last year, Aminur Rahman, assistant director of ACC, filed a case against Tayebur Rahman with Khulna Sadar Police Station in this connection.

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Email : jewel@mahingroup.com, rubayet@mahingroup.com

# Dalits for constitutional recognition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Dalit community yesterday submitted a memorandum to the special committee on constitutional amendment, demanding inclusion of special provisions in constitution to ensure social security, citizen's rights and human dignity.

In the memorandum, Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement President Mukul Sikder and General Secretary Bodhanaki Shalomon said they had to suffer a lot due to social discrimination on grounds of caste and profession, says a press release.

Because of such discrimination the communities are lagging behind in development and becoming victims of social discrimination, they said.

Other demands include bringing an immediate end to all sorts of social discrimination to them, a constitutional declaration that terms social discrimination to Dalits as a crime and to ensure equal opportunity for them in different government, non-government and autonomous institutions.

# STUDY IN CANADA

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<p>Canadian University Application Centre</p> <p>Hosna Centre, Suite 210, 106 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka 1212 (Bangladesh) Tel: +880-2-8826445 • Cell: +88-01911-365221 E-mail: dhaka@canada123.org • Website: www.canada123.org</p>	<p><b>LAST CHANCE</b> to apply for Jan 2011 intake</p>